

POLITICAL SCIENCE

This major attracts students whose interests include philosophy, law, economics, history, culture, psychology, and regional studies. It allows students the chance to better understand the vital questions associated with politics and government. These questions include the conditions that promote (or inhibit) democracy, freedom, justice, human rights, effective policymaking, and public service.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) GENERAL OVERVIEW

Two of the following lower-division courses:

- Theory and Practice of American Democracy
- Ideology and Political Conflict
- Comparative Politics
- Law, Politics, and Public Policy

One upper-division course from three of the following categories:

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Law and Public Policy
- Political Thought

Two upper-division elective courses. Examples include:

- Trial Advocacy: Theory and Practice
- Politics of East Asia
- Interest Groups and Elite Behavior
- The Politics of Peace

Three additional courses from a selected concentration area. Concentrations include:

- Cross-National and Regional Politics
- Environmental Politics
- Law and Human Rights
- Parties, Interest Groups, and Institutions
- Race, Gender, and Politics of Justice
- Applied Politics
- Political Thought and Philosophy
- Public Opinion, Communication, and Decision Making

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Center for the Political Future/Unruh Institute of Politics: The mission of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics is to motivate students to become active in the world of politics and to encourage public officials to participate in the daily life of USC, while assisting undergraduates in securing internships. The Unruh Research in Applied Politics Program also supports research that addresses political topics of concern to the polity.

Trial Advocacy Program (Mock Trial): The Dornsife Trial Advocacy Program is an award-winning competitive trial simulation program that is complemented with real-world public interest legal opportunities. During competitions, students explore the trial process by presenting opening statements, directing witness cross examinations, and giving closing arguments — all while practicing attorneys and judges preside over the “trial”.

Study Abroad: A major in Political Science allows students one of the most diverse arrays of overseas study available to Trojans. Choose to explore political issues on the international scale in locations ranging from Cairo to Sao Paulo, Florence to Tokyo.